

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 291410Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9515

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JP, PE

SUBJECT: NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO PERU, SABURO KIMOTO

1. WE HAVE ENJOYED OUR ASSOCIATION WITH THE KIMOTOS WHO ARE AN UNUSUAL DIPLOMATIC COUPLE. HE IS UNUSUALLY RETIRING, SELDOM ENTERTAINS OR GOES OUT IF HE CAN AVOID IT, AND AT REPRESENTATIONAL GATHERINGS STAYS IN THE CORNER AND SAYS LITTLE. THEREFORE HE TENDS TO ACQUIRE A REPUTATION AS UNCOMMUNICATIVE OR EVEN UN-FRIENDLY, BUT IN FACT HE IS NEITHER. HE SPEAKS QUITE GOOD ENGLISH AND (WE ARE TOLD) VERY GOOD GERMAN (WE UNDERSTAND HE DID UNDERGRADUATE WORK IN GERMANY AND GRADUATE WORK AT HARVARD), AND HE IS IN FACT EXTREMELY SAVVY AND KNOWLEDGEABLE. HE HAS THE JAPANESE KNACK OF GETTING TO THE POINT BLUNTLY WITHOUT BEATING ABOUT THE BUSH WHEN HE WANTS TO, AND IF HE CAN BE INDUCED TO EXPRESS HIS VIEW, IT WILL BE PITHY AND WELL WORTH LISTENING TO. (E.G. RECENTLY HE TREATED THE CHARGE TO AN INCISIVE AND VERY BLUNT ACCOUNT OF JAPANESE-CHINESE-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND ALSO CAN DESCRIBE THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN A FEW WITTY BUT WEIGHTY SENTENCES. HIS SENSE OF HUMOR IS SLY, AND HIS USUAL APPROACH TO POLITICS IS BY A

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SARDONIC REMARK.) IN ST RT, APPEARANCES MAY WELL BE

DECEIVING, AND IF JAPANESE VIEWS ARE OF INTEREST IN PERU, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE AMBASSADOR SPEND A BIT OF TIME GETTING TO KNOW KIMOTO.

2. MRS. KIMOTO, WHO IS CONSIDERABLY YOUNGER, IS AN EXTREMELY PLEASANT AND ENERGETIC LADY WHO IS AS ACTIVE AS HER HUSBAND IS RETIRING. THEIR THREE YOUNG CHILDREN HAVE BEEN IN THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN PRAGUE AND SHE HAS BEEN A LOYAL AND HELPFUL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER. SHE AND THE CHILDREN ARE CHRISTIANS, AND ARE FAITHFUL IN ATTENDING DIPLOMATIC WORSHIP SERVICES WHEN HELD, WHILE SHE HAS HELPED THE US EMBASSY MAINTAIN A SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN. WE CONSIDER HER A CLOSE FRIEND OF OUR EMBASSY, AND RECOMMEND HER WARMLY TO OUR EMBASSY IN LIMA.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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